

TOKYO

The visit of the new Premier, Eisaku Sato, to Washington was by no means so bland an affair as the official communiqués suggested. Japan—its recovery from the catastrophic war completed and its economy the most dynamic in the world—is set to play a more significant political and strategic role, but the script has not yet been decided. Premier Sato is by conviction a conservative and anti-Communist. (His brother, ex-

ABLF?

Abroad

Premier Nobusuke Kishi, was a delegate to the November conference of the Asian Peoples' Anti-Communist League, held at Taiwan, and while there had several long meetings with Chiang Kai-shek.) But the Japanese Left—much of it Communist or pro-Communist—is very powerful, and Sato must maneuver cautiously. In his Washington discussions he sought to feel out basic U.S. intentions toward Southeast Asia and Peking, since he cannot risk leaving his country out on a limb if the U.S. is going to reverse its policy on China or pull altogether out of Asia. Among other topics: a possible American-Japanese "bilateral nuclear force"—that is, a Pacific MLF, supported by one State Dept. faction as a device to forestall Japan from developing its own nuclear weapons, by another as a transition step toward Japan's nuclear arming; the pledge of U.S. nuclear umbrella over Japan and India; a new Pacific anti-Communist alliance.

BLANTYRE, MALAWI

Kamuzu's Amazons

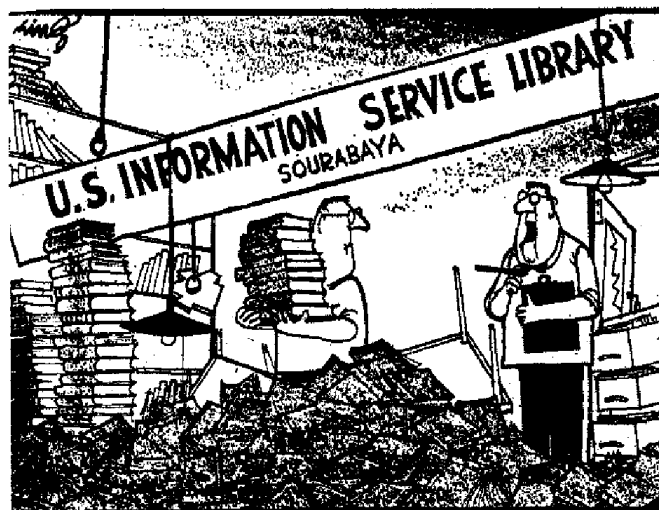
Dr. Hastings (Kamuzu) Banda, Malawi's chief of chiefs, is putting more and more reliance on the formidable League of Malawi Women, known generally as the Amazon Army. Whenever he speaks in public, the Amazons are at hand, dressed in red blouses, green skirts and black sashes (the flag colors), to dance and howl. Banda recently declared mysteriously that "an army of women" would repel an "invasion from the north." He has given the Amazons the task of acting as a clandestine security service—i.e., as informers. He appointed the League's first leader, the militant nationalist, Mrs. Rose Chibambo, to his Cabinet, and was deeply shocked when she and her husband sided with the opposition ministers in last September's blowup. But under the new leader, Mrs. Margaret Mlanga, the ranks of the Amazons continue to be his all-out supporters.

AL QARA, YEMEN

Nasser Rampant

In spite of two and a half years of massive intervention by Egyptian forces supplied largely with Soviet equipment, Nasser's puppet government in Sana has failed to establish its authority over most of the country. The forces of the Imam are still in the field; the bombings by the Egyptian air force have left thousands homeless, but

have not broken the spirit of the villagers and the mountain tribes. Hashem bin Hashem, Minister of Information in the Imam's government, recently appeared in Aden, where he reported that early in January one of the civil war's largest battles took place at Jebel Razeh and resulted in a smashing defeat of the Egyptian-republican army. Out of an Egyptian-republican force of 6,000 more than a thousand Egyptians were killed and 335 captured. Five hundred more Egyptians are said to have been killed Jan. 10th in a punitive expedition they undertook against the Bani Harith and Naham tribes, which had lined up with the royalists. The Imam has invited delegates from the entire Mohammedan world to meet at his headquarters at Al Qara. When asked about their accommodations, Hashem bin Hashem answered, "We have mountains, we have tents."



King, Daily Telegraph, Australia

Ben Roth Agency

"There's one book missing—'How to Make Friends and Influence People.'"

BESANCON

Red Eye Open

The Minister of Culture, M. André Malraux, gave one of his customary rhetorical displays in opening a special showing at the Louvre of a first-class collection of 20th-century paintings that will be shared by the museums of Besançon and Bagnols-sur Cèze. Neither he nor the U.S. news weeklies that reported the event mentioned a piquant circumstance: the thirty-year Communist Party membership of the donors, Georges Besson and his wife, Adele, who died Dec. 10, the same day on which Malraux officially thanked the Bessons, in the name of the nation, for the gift. M. Besson, whose financial means have always been modest, began buying pictures in 1908. He never paid more than a couple of hundred dollars—even for a portrait Renoir painted of Mme. Besson—for paintings now worth up to several hundred thousand. He detests non-representational and surrealist art, and has concentrated on such painters as Van Dongen, Vuillard, Bonnard and Renoir as well as others (Bardone, Savary, Minaux, Lesieur) less well known. He has summed up his experience thus: "One must learn how to see just as to read or to write."

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